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the necessity of working in factories or in the fields, and their infants abandoned during the critical period of dependency. Generally, high rates are found to be characteristic of the maritime communes, owing to unfavorable climatic conditions, and of those communes situated along the courses of rivers and canals, owing to pollution of drinking water. High mortality is found also to accompany high natality rates,—consistent with Westergaard's analysis of mortality, natality, size of family, and duration of marriage. Some analyses are added of statistics of the diseases most prevalent among infants as causes of death; and of the origin and causes of these maladies themselves.

While recognizing that high infantile mortality in any community may result from the fortuitous combination of these several causes, M. Jacquart finds the one general cause more responsible for this high mortality than any other, to be the substitution of other food for the mother's milk during infancy. Wherever the influence of this practice can be isolated, it is shown to be conducive to high mortality. On the other hand where mothers customarily nurse their children during infancy the chances of death are greatly reduced for all classes, and the inequalities of economic status largely neutralized. It would appear that in Flanders, at least, the nursing bottle with long rubber tube, is death's most effective weapon against the newly born.

JOHN CUMMINGS.

Bureau of the Census, Washington, D. C.

Krankenhauswesen und Heilstättenbewegung im Lichte der Sozialen Hygiene. By ALFRED GROTJAHN, Editor of Jahresbericht über Soziale Hygiene und Demographie. (Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel, 1908. Pp. viii, 406. 10 m.)

Dr. Grotjahn is not a new writer on health problems. He published a book of this nature in 1904, which was preceded and followed by pamphlets and magazine articles upon this and kindred subjects.

This work presents a general picture in large prospect of hospitals and kindred institutions in Germany. It traces out the evolution in the disposition of the sick and the infirm. In the last

half of the nineteenth century there has been a tendency to care for acute and curable diseases in hospitals, and for chronic and incurable diseases in asylums. The main purpose of the author is to reveal this process of specialization and to inquire into its economic advantages. The cost to the society as a whole is considered.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part, entitled "Die treibenden Kräfte," deals with specialization in medicine, the handling of chronic diseases, the health movement, and the influence of sickness and accident insurance laws. Institutions for the sick have received a great impulse from both charitable and religious beneficence, but for far-reaching results, these stimulating experimental forces have been too weak, and public provision has become essential. A needed legal reform is statutory authority which will make it possible to bring the poor who are sick or sickly within institutions, even though contrary to their will. Insurance legislation has brought to popular notice the care of buildings for the sick. For the best working out of the insurance laws, the insurance business should be more centralized, and should have a more differentiated empirical basis.

The second and largest part of the book, entitled "Die Spezialisierung des Anstaltswesens," treats of the specialization of institutions for the care of different kinds of diseases. A great advantage of public institutions is that many persons can receive a temporary, but careful and specially adapted, treatment which would be either impossible or very expensive in the home. A further advantage is the isolation of infectious diseases, which tends to check their spread. Convalescents should be cared for in homes specially designed for them. This would relieve the regular hospitals of a great burden, and would reduce expense from one-half to one-third. Such special hospitals can be simpler in construction, and the lighter tasks can be performed by the inmates, an economic advantage to institution and patient alike. As to lung diseases, the establishment of institutions for the incipient stages was greatly demanded in the last decade. This was a result of the idea to cure lung tuberculosis by institutional aid, by bringing into the institutions through private and public support sufferers from the lower classes. On principle it would seem that this plan must be eminently sound, but the author is of the opinion that there

has not been, nor will be, any decrease in tuberculosis from its working. Institutions have been erected also for the advanced or incurable cases of tuberculosis, and in this direction the author finds hope to decrease the disease. He favors the tendency for inmates to perform part of the labors of the institution, although one would expect him to take the opposite position, in view of the essentials of a cure of the disease. Such invalid homes should be patterned after the small Norwegian forerunners, and not after the larger German ones. Institutions for nervous diseases show the great importance of physical labor which is productive of economic value. The spread of venereal diseases could be largely checked by placing in hospitals many who are in the infectious stage. Special wards or hospitals should be provided for these diseases. A very general tendency is shown to care for the insane in asylums instead of in hospitals, and to segregate the temporarily from the permanently insane. Advanced epileptics and incurable drunkards should be placed in asylums. An effort should be made to cure drunkards by placing them in an institution at least from six to twelve months, giving them serious work to do, free from all play. The blind, and a portion of the deaf and dumb, should be cared for in asylums, for the idea that they should be able to compete successfully in life's battle is utopian. From the point of view of social hygiene, invalids and sickly persons should be cared for in special homes where they could perform labor proportionate to their strength.

The third division of the book, entitled "*Die Entwicklungstendenzen*," is concerned largely with the subject of segregating the sick, the defective, and the dependent. The author maintains that the tendency to differentiate between the hospital and asylum is for the best interests of society, socially and economically. Personal freedom must give way to the social good. Already law compels this in the case of criminals, and in the case of those who contract contagious diseases. The author would extend the same principle to other cases, such as the insane, epileptics, and drunkards.

This book is not a mere theoretical discussion, but throughout a statistical basis is presented for the conclusions. Extensive bibliographical notes are contained in the work, which are a great aid to further and more detailed studies. Acknowledgment is

made that many of the conclusions rest upon the data collected by A. Guttstadt in the *Krankenhaus-Lexikon für das Deutsche Reich*.

P. T. DONDLINGER.

New Haven, Conn.

Children of the Poor. Descriptions of their life: The possible means of improving conditions under which they are reared. By A. DAVIES EDWARDS, Medical Officer, Bournemouth Education Committee. (London: Hammond and Company, 1909. Pp. 74. 1 s. net.)

To one unacquainted with the daily experiences of physicians, teachers and visitors among the very poor in the narrow streets and dark tenements of East London, the brief chapters of this little book give a touching and realistic picture surcharged with human interest. The author gives evidence of experience and of knowledge of the most important forms of social betterment work as it deals with the sufferings and wrongs of children. But his purpose seems to be rather to arouse interest and sympathy than to formulate a wise or elaborate program for dealing with these problems. It will serve to indicate how much is needed to be done, and to instil a desire to do, rather than to point the way.

S. M. L.

Zur Entwicklungsgeschichte des Sozialismus. By OTTO WARSCHAUER. (Berlin: Franz Vahlen, 1909. Pp. xvi, 403. 4 m.)

This book is an endeavor to review in an unbiased way the work and writings of the early French exponents of the socialistic theory—Saint-Simon, Fourier, Louis Blanc, and others,—and to discuss the various experiments which have been tried, both in Europe and in the United States, in order to realize their theories.

It is a difficult task which Dr. Warschauer has undertaken. Most writers on socialism are either its ardent expounders and supporters, or its convinced critics and denounciators. Dr. War-